

medication for those things, and those pain medications, by the way, can be like Tylenol III, Tylenol with codeine, that are scheduled drugs that are possibly addictive drugs. Is that a risk? Yes, but I think that, you know, we've seen that the pain medications do not have the serious consequences that doing some of the other antibiotic drugs would have for your system. With that, I would offer to you the committee amendment. I want to vote for 429. I think if this amendment goes on that in great comfort you can vote for LB 429 and, hopefully,...

SPEAKER BAACK: Time.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: ...give people good eye care as well as the protection of safety. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Kristensen. While the Legislature is in session and capable of transacting business, I propose to sign and do sign LB 831 and LB 267. Senator Vrtiska, on the Kristensen amendment.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the body, I rise to indicate to you, as Senator Kristensen did, that this is not certainly an easy issue to deal with. Most of you are aware that I have a daughter who is a medical doctor, but I also have, as he has, I also have friends in both the optometric and the ophthalmology field and this isn't an easy issue to deal with. However, my feeling this morning is that I oppose the amendment that Senator Kristensen brings forward, for a couple of reasons. First of all, my understanding in talking to people from both ends of the issue indicate that since 1989 the schooling that's taken by optometrists is much more intense than it was in previous years and they have had training in many of the areas of drug interactions and many of the other areas that medical doctors get. I think that a good compromise here is to pass the bill as it was brought out of committee and move ahead. It's been indicated by, certainly, by Senator Wesely that this is an issue that's been going on for too long a time and I think in order to serve the best interests of the public we need to move this bill and allow some of these procedures that are sometimes difficult to get an ophthalmologist involved in because of not every community has an ophthalmologist and almost every community of any size has an optometrist. I, too, share many of the views that Senator Kristensen brought forward but I think that I have some feelings that many of these issues could be dealt with as long as we're careful how we do and some of these